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MOK-A-29263

Chief, Foreign Division M

14 May 1951

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Dr. Ing. Frank FRUENGEL -- Torpedo Exploder

REFERENCE: WASH-37139

1. Dr. Ing. Frank FRUENGEL was contacted in Copenhagen on 10 May 1951. Due to difficulties with air connections, I arrived late and joined FRUENGEL, [] and [] as they were having luncheon. Unfortunately, FRUENGEL was ill, so discussion with him was delayed until late in the afternoon at the home of [] where he had gone for a short rest after lunch.

2. Before rejoining FRUENGEL, I learned from the others that FRUENGEL believed the US had no interest in his work and felt that after six months he should have received a definite answer as to our decision. He had also suggested 1 June as a final date for an answer, after which he would feel free to approach any Western country. He is considering presenting his ideas either to Italy, Switzerland, or Sweden. FRUENGEL himself favors Italy, but [] intends to try to persuade him to contact [] friends in Sweden. FRUENGEL had also mentioned the fact that he has been contacted by military representatives of Egypt, Israel, and several Western countries concerning ideas for testing efficiency of weapons. The torpedo exploder is apparently unknown to these countries. The British have as yet shown no interest in FRUENGEL or his work.

3. When asked for documentary evidence of the test firing of the torpedo, FRUENGEL asked [] for his documents, particularly several photo copies which had not been sealed. There was, however, only a letter concerning the testing of the guiding device for the glide bomb (MOK-A-24319, paragraph 5), a copy of which was sent re in MOK-W-8081. He then stated he did have a letter, on a film probably in Hamburg, which stated that the torpedo exploder had been tested and that production should be started. He will send a copy of this letter to me. However, I feel sure it will be a copy of one of the letters already in our possession (MOK-W-8081) concerning the Leuchtfisch. Fruengel stated that correspondence on the Leuchtfisch had been scant as it was more secret than his work on the glide bomb control.

4. The twenty torpedo exploders for the Leuchtfisch were destroyed by the Germans at the end of the war, along with documents and equipment at Echernsaerde.

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5. FRUENGEL told me he wanted an answer from us by 1 June, so that he could be free to approach other Western countries with his ideas. He assured me he would not knowingly have them go to any Soviet controlled country. I asked him if he would wait until 1 July, as I was going on leave shortly and would not return until 1 June. He readily agreed.

6. He then made the following proposals concerning payment, which I now find to be an increase in his previous estimates (MGM-A-24319, paragraph 7d). However, as there was no detailed discussion of this point before, previous statements on his part can hardly be considered binding. During the war development work by FRUENGEL cost about 3/4 million marks, 80,000 of which FRUENGEL never collected, and is now unable to collect. He now wants us to pay the cost of the number of exploders we may want to buy initially (about 12,000 DM per set; it may be a little more now due to rising costs) and reimburse him for the 80,000 DM. Payment would be made: 1/3 when the contract is signed; 1/3 when the sets are completed; and the final 1/3 when the exploder has been accepted. If we decide to accept the exploder, he will make a complete settlement, giving us all rights, for the equivalent of the cost of one torpedo. This he estimates to be about \$90,000. He wants this in Canadian dollars, as he hopes to go to Canada eventually.

7. In answer to this I told him I would pass his proposal along, but that in the event we decided to test his exploder, we would no doubt have a financial proposal of our own. This he apparently expected.

8. FRUENGEL is willing to visit the US to discuss any aspects of the exploder (Leuchtfisch) if it is accepted by us.

9. Discussion about foreign interest in other of his ideas, et cetera, was not prudent due to his illness and can be taken up at a later date.

10. [] is anxious to get FRUENGEL's documents out of Denmark, and FRUENGEL is anxious about having them in Germany. If they are returned to him, he intends to leave them with an unidentified friend in Switzerland for safe keeping. [] agreed, however, to keep the documents until our answer or the latest, 1 July, and then to turn them over to FRUENGEL. The documents will be needed by FRUENGEL if he undertakes to construct the exploder for us.

11. It was agreed that--

- a. FRUENGEL will send me the letter about the Leuchtfisch immediately for forwarding to you
- b. I will contact him before 1 July to give him our decision
- c. [] will hold the documents for FRUENGEL until 1 July
- d. FRUENGEL will draw up a list of all persons and present location who have knowledge of the Leuchtfisch
- e. Future meetings will be in Germany

-2-
SECRET

12. My previous evaluation of FRUENDEL as a sincere and capable man still stands. His desire that we reach a decision by 1 July seems to be fair and understandable. The settlement of financial terms should not cause any great difficulty.

13. To date, FRUENDEL has spent about 200 DM in traveling expenses, telephone calls, et cetera, in connection with our interest in him. I suggest that we give him about 500 DM when I next see him, to cover his expenses and trouble. Approval requested. *approx. 500 DM - Out 28858 46413 15 June 57*

14. Prior to my going to the airport at Copenhagen for my return to Frankfurt, I was warned that [] who knows me as [] was on duty at the terminal, but would probably be on the ramp or wandering about elsewhere in his duties. Unfortunately, in going through Pass and Currency controls I found him controlling passports. We exchanged hearty greetings and he wished me a pleasant trip and an early return to Denmark. As the window obstructs the view into the room where the control officer sits, I could not see whether in his enthusiasm to be the correct European host, he bothered to observe my real name or not, but he certainly had the opportunity, for they usually look at the passport first and then at the bearer next. In any event, he stamped it quickly after a warm handshake and farewell greeting.

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